

**IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

ATT. DOCKET NO.  
12928/10021

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am an original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **CLUSTER FOR ADJUSTING A NUCLEAR REACTOR CORE REACTIVITY, ABSORBER ROD OF THE CLUSTER AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING THE ABSORBER ROD AGAINST WEAR**, the specification of which was filed herewith; and was filed as International Application Serial No. PCT/FR03/01710 on 6 June 2003.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)**

Number	Country	(Day/month/year)	Priority Claimed	
02 07884	France	6/25/2002	Yes <u>X</u>	No <u>  </u>

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys:

**Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490)**  
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I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
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